



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak Update and Healthcare Provider Guidance**

Outbreak Summary:

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak originating in **Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China** began in December 2019. There is evidence of human-to-human transmission. With confirmation that COVID-19 has been diagnosed in the United States and in Arizona, the Arizona Department of Health Services acknowledges that providers will be fielding many questions from patients about exposure and testing. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and public health officials will provide updated guidance as it becomes available. To stay up-to-date on COVID-19, please visit the [ADHS website](#) and the [CDC website](#).

Healthcare providers should determine if the patient meets criteria outlined below:

Patients in the United States who meet the following criteria should be evaluated as Patients Under Investigation (PUI) in association with the outbreak of COVID-19.

Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI)**

1. Fever* **or** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g, cough, difficulty breathing), **AND** close contact† with an ill laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
2. Fever* **and** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g, cough, difficulty breathing), **AND** a history of travel from Hubei Province, China within 14 days of symptom onset.
3. Fever* **and** symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g, cough, difficulty breathing) requiring hospitalization, **AND** a history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset.

Healthcare providers caring for a patient with fever and/or acute respiratory symptoms should:

- Isolate and mask ambulatory patients presenting to outpatient clinics or the emergency department with acute respiratory illness and recent travel from Hubei Province, China in the last 14 days.
- Isolate and follow [recommended infection control](#) for hospitalized patients with acute respiratory illness and recent travel from mainland China in the last 14 days.
- **Immediately notify your [local health department](#) and healthcare facility's infection control personnel.**
- Healthcare personnel encountering a suspect patient should use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).
- Obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness.
- Consider testing for seasonal respiratory illnesses, like influenza. The viral respiratory pathogen panels available at this time often include endemic coronaviruses. **IF A PATIENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS ON THESE TESTS IT IS NOT SARS-CoV-2.**
- Coordinate with the local health department for specimen collection, transport, and testing for suspect cases.
- Counsel patients on the current understanding of COVID-19:
 - Only patients who meet the PUI definition are considered at risk for infection with SARS-CoV-2.
 - Testing for COVID-19 is only available at CDC and after approval for patients meeting criteria for a person under investigation.
 - The risk to the Arizona public is considered to be relatively low, in comparison to other more common respiratory illnesses that infect residents every year.
 - If located in Maricopa County, there is a public hotline for further questions: 602-747-7099.
 - Counsel patients that there is current [widespread, influenza virus](#) and other seasonal respiratory illnesses in Arizona.
 - Arizonans are recommended to get a flu shot and follow basic prevention guidelines.

For more information, visit the ADHS website (azhealth.gov/coronavirus) and the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>)

* Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain medications. Clinical judgement should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

† Close contact is defined at the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html#foot2>

**Current as of 2/14/20. Recommendations are subject to change as the situation evolves.